

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 MC-02 OMB-01 EB-07 /060 W

----- 098122

R 181100Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3735

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAHALAPA HI

CNO WASHDC

CMAAG TAIPEI TW

COMUSTDC TAIPEI TW

DOD (DSAA)

UNCLAS TAIPEI 7446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, TW

SUBJECT: ACTIVATION OF EX-US DESTROYERS IN ROCN, FMS  
CASE TW-SAY-P4

CNO FOR OP 63

1. SUMMARY. MOFA INFORMS US THAT ROC EMBASSY WASHINGTON MADE FORMAL REQUEST TO DEPT ON DEC 11 FOR AMENDMENT TO FMS CASE WHICH WOULD ENABLE ROCN TO COMMISSION THREE DESTROYERS PURCHASED FROM THE USN INACTIVE FLEET FOR SCRAPPING, AND INSTEAD TO SCRAP THREE OTHER DESTROYERS NOW IN ROCN INVENTORY. COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS THIS ACTION BE APPROVED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN APRIL, 1974 THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA PURCHASED SIX DESTROYERS FROM THE U.S. INACTIVE FLEET FOR CANNIBALIZATION AND SCRAPPING. THE TERMS OF SALE REQUIRED THAT THE VESSELS BE SCRAPPED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF TRANSFER. TOWING OF THE VESSELS TO TAIWAN WAS COMPLETED IN SEPT 1974.

3. SUBSEQUENT INSPECTION OF THE VESSELS BY CHINESE NAVY  
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AND MAAG/ROC SHOWED THREE OF THE VESSELS ACQUIRED FOR

SCRAPPING TO BE IN SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER MATERIAL CONDITION THAN THE THREE BENSON/GLEAVES CLASS DESTROYERS NOW IN THE ROCN INVENTORY. THESE SHIPS, DD'S 14, 15, AND 17, ARE ALL IN EXCESS OF 34 YEARS OLD. ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT ON DD'S 14, 15, AND 17 ARE TOO OLD TO SUPPORT THROUGH NORMAL LOGISTICS CHANNELS, AND ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH EQUIPMENT ABOARD THE OTHER 15 DD'S IN ROCN INVENTORY. WHILE THE DESTROYERS ACQUIRED FOR SCRAPPING ARE NOT IN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD CONDITION, THE BEST THREE OF THEM, EX-US DD'S 746, 760 AND 833 CAN BE ACTIVATED AND BROUGHT TO SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER CONDITION, AND AT MUCH LOWER COST, THAN WOULD BE POSSIBLE BY OVERHAULING ROCN DD'S 14, 15, AND 17.

4. CINC CHINESE NAVY INTENDS TO DECOMMISSION AND SCRAP DD'S 14, 15, AND 17 IN EARLY 1975 IF APPROVAL FOR ACTIVATION OF EX-US DD'S 746, 780 AND 833 IS OBTAINED. APPROVAL FOR ACTIVATION WILL REQUIRE AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL CONDITIONS OF SALE OF THOSE VESSELS TO THE ROC (FMS CASE TW-SAY-P4). ACTIVATION OF THREE RECENTLY ACQUIRED DD'S CONCURRENT WITH SCRAPPING OF THREE OLDER DD'S WILL RESULT IN NO CHANGE TO THE EXISTING ROC FORCE STRUCTURE; HOWEVER, LOWER OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS WITH INCREASED READINESS AND PERFORMANCE IN THE ROC FLEET WILL BE ACHIEVED.

5. WE CONSIDER ACTIVATION OF EX-US DD'S 746, 760, AND 833, CONCURRENT WITH DECOMMISSIONING AND SCRAPPING OF ROCN DD'S 14, 15, AND A17 TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH THZJUS AND THE ROC. COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ROC REQUEST. UNGER

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